

REMARKS

Upon entry of the amendments, claims 1-4 and 7-20 will be pending in the application and claims 4, 5, and 6 will be cancelled. The subject matter of claim 6 has been incorporated into claim 1. Claims 4 and 5 are being cancelled because the subject matter set forth in these claims would be considered duplicative to other pending claims.

Applicants request reconsideration of the rejections detailed in the Office Action based upon the following comments.

Double Patenting

The Examiner has indicated that claims 3 and 4 are substantial duplicates. To obviate this objection, Applicants have cancelled claim 4 from the application.

Claim Objections

The Examiner raised objections to claims 7-10, 12-16, and 18. Applicants have amended the claims 7-10, 12-15, and 18 as suggested by the Examiner to obviate the objections. Claim 16 has not been amended because there is proper antecedent basis in claim 9 for “the general formula [3]”.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 7-18 and 20 are rejected as purportedly indefinite. Applicants respectfully submit that the rejection should be withdrawn in light of the claim amendments. Where applicable, the claims have been amended to remove the reference to the “outermost layer”. Furthermore, the subject matter of former claim 6 has been amended to replace

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“at the side of the surface to be transferred” with the phrase “at the side to be transferred”. Due to the amendments, Applicants respectfully submit that the claim rejections should be withdrawn.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 102

The Examiner set forth the following anticipation rejections:

- Claims 1-4 are rejected as being anticipated by Oshiba (US 5,721,085);
and
- Claim 1 is rejected as being anticipated by Itami (US PAP 2002/0076238)

Applicants respectfully request that the anticipation rejections be withdrawn because the cited patents fail to inherently or explicitly disclose every feature detailed in the amended claims. Independent claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the features of former claim 6, which contains allowable subject matter as set forth in the Office Action of April 2, 2003. Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that the cited patents fail to anticipate the rejected claims. Furthermore, Applicants submit that the rejection of claim 4 is moot by cancellation of this claim.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 103

The Examiner set forth the following obviousness rejections:

- Claim 4 is rejected based upon Sakoh (5,114,814) in view of Oshiba; and
- Claims 1-5, 7, 9, 11, 13, 15-17 and 19 are rejected based upon Omokawa (US Patent 6,451,493) in light of Organic Photoreceptors for Imaging

Systems to Borsenger, pp. 6-17, and further in light of Matsuura (US Patent 5,604,574).

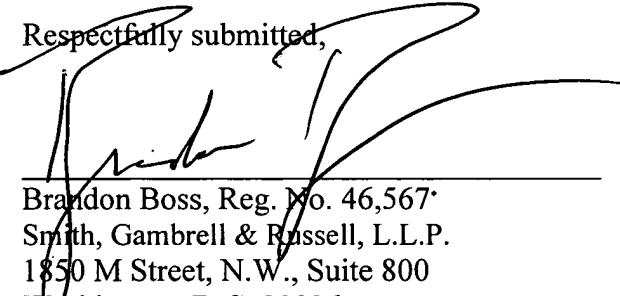
Applicants respectfully assert that the rejections should be withdrawn. Claim 4 has been cancelled from the application. Independent claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the allowable subject matter of former dependent claim 6. As such, dependent claims 2-5, 7, 9, 11, 13, 15-17, and 19 should also be allowable.

CONCLUSION

Applicants respectfully request allowance of the application. If any additional fees are due in connection with the filing of this response, such as fees under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17, please charge the fees to Deposit Account No. 02-4300. Any overpayment can be credited to Deposit Account No. 02-4300.

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Signature:

Respectfully submitted,

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